

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed March 2, 2009. Claims 2-18 and 19-24 are pending in this Application and Claims 1 and 19 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 19, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and Claims 7, 10, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 6 and 21 stand objected to and Claims 12-18 stand allowed. Claims 2, 4, 6-11 and 20-24 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11, 19, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,003,563 issued to Kevin B. Leigh et al. ("*Leigh*"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that *Leigh* does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention. However, to reduce the time and expense associated with obtaining patent protection, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 19, and rewritten objected-to (but otherwise allowable) claims dependent from Claims 1 and 19 to include the previously-recited limitations of Claims 1 and 19, thus rendering the rejection of Claims 1 and 19 moot. As for Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11, 20, 23, and 24, Applicants make no concessions regarding the rejections of these Claims, but submit that: (i) Claims 2-5, 8, 9 and 11 are allowable at least because they depend from Claim 6, held by the Examiner to be allowable; and (ii) Claims 20, 23 and 24 are allowable at least because they depend from Claim 21, held by the Examiner to be allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leigh* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,334 issued to Robert G. Bassman et al. ("*Bassman*"). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Leigh* in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0131127 filed by Randy J. King et al. ("*King*").

Although Applicants make no concessions regarding the rejections of these Claims, Applicants submit that Claims 7 and 10 are allowable at least because they depend from

Claim 6, held by the Examiner to be allowable; and (ii) Claim 22 is allowable at least because it depends from Claim 21, held by the Examiner to be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 12-18.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claims 6 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claims 6 and 21 incorporating the elements of their original base claims. Applicants submit that amended Claims 6 and 21 are in condition for allowance and request full allowance of Claims 6 and 21, and all Claims that depend therefrom.

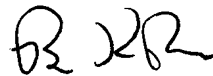
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Claims 2-11 and 13-24 as amended.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2684.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 19, 2009

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